



October 21, 2019

Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

RE: Suspension of Regulatory Statutes and Rules relating to vehicle registrations and sizes and weights under the Oct. 21 Disaster Proclamation

Dear Governor Abbott:

In accordance Section 418 of the Government Code and the Oct. 21, 2019 disaster declaration, the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles (TxDMV) recommends, subject to the conditions and exceptions listed in the attached draft notice, the suspension of the following vehicle registration and size and weight requirements for operators of commercial vehicles providing disaster assistance in any Texas county as a result of the Oct. 20 storms as well as any Texas county through which transport is necessary to reach an impacted county:

1. International Registration Plan (IRP) vehicle registration under Transportation Code, Section 502.091 and Title 43, Section 217.56 of the Texas Administrative Code to the extent the vehicle is not already registered under IRP, and as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the 48 contiguous states of the United States;
2. 72-/144-hour temporary registration permits under Transportation Code, Section 502.094 and Title 43, Section 217.40(b)(3) of the Texas Administrative Code, as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the states of the United States; and
3. the oversize and overweight permitting requirements under Transportation Code, Chapters 621 through 623, as well as Title 43, Chapter 219 of the Texas Administrative Code, for nondivisible vehicles and loads.

The suspension is needed to expedite disaster assistance by operators of commercial vehicles from Texas and other states. Examples of disaster assistance include, but are not limited to, vehicles engaged in the transport of relief workers, food, water, clothing, equipment, materials, fuel, shelter, and other supplies to the disaster areas, as well as vehicles used to restore utilities and to remove debris from the disaster areas listed in the disaster declaration.

TxDmv recommends the suspension begin on October 21, 2019 and terminate the earlier of November 20, 2019, or when terminated by the Office of the Governor.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please don't hesitate to contact me at 512-465-3046 or Tracey Beaver at 512-465-4160 or Caroline Love at 512-465-4019.

Sincerely,

Whitney Brewster
Executive Director

Attachment



Important Notice for Motor Carriers

Vehicle Registration and Size/Weight Requirements Suspended for October 20th Texas storms

In accordance with the disaster declaration issued by Governor Greg Abbott on October 21, 2019 and subject to the conditions and exceptions listed in this notice, the following requirements are suspended effective October 21, 2019 for operators of commercial vehicles providing disaster assistance in any Texas county that sustained damage to its electrical infrastructure as a result of the storms on October 20, as well as any Texas county through which transport is necessary to reach an impacted county:

1. International Registration Plan (IRP) vehicle registration under Transportation Code, Section 502.091 and Title 43, Section 217.56 of the Texas Administrative Code to the extent the vehicle is not already registered under IRP, and as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the 48 contiguous states of the United States;
2. 72-/144-hour temporary registration permits under Transportation Code, Section 502.094 and Title 43, Section 217.40(b)(3) of the Texas Administrative Code, as long as the vehicle is registered in one of the states of the United States; and
3. the oversize and overweight permitting requirements under Transportation Code, Chapters 621 through 623, as well as Title 43, Chapter 219 of the Texas Administrative Code, for nondivisible vehicles and loads.

Disaster assistance is limited to those actions that are necessary to facilitate the restoration of electricity in the Texas counties listed in the disaster declaration.

The suspension does not apply to any requirement not specifically listed in this notice, including certain safety or insurance requirements. Also, operators are responsible and liable for safely routing their vehicles and obtaining current information concerning hazardous road conditions prior to movement.

The operator of the commercial vehicle must keep the following documentation in the cab of the vehicle and provide the documentation to any Texas peace officer upon request:

1. a copy of this notice;
2. a copy of the Governor's disaster declaration, including any amendments; and
3. documentation sufficient to identify the vehicle and/or load and to establish that the vehicle and/or load is being used exclusively to facilitate the

restoration of electricity in Texas while operating under this suspension notice.

The following conditions and exceptions apply to the suspension regarding size and weight laws and rules:

1. The suspension only applies to vehicles and loads for which the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized by Transportation Code, Chapters 621 through 623, as well as Title 43, Chapter 219 of the Texas Administrative Code, to issue a permit.
2. All permitting requirements are waived, except vehicle escort requirements and restrictions on nighttime movement.
3. Operators are responsible for obtaining current restrictions (excluding curfews) prior to movement.
4. Vehicles may not travel across load-posted bridges when exceeding the posted capacity for gross or axle weights, unless the bridge provides the only public access to the disaster area.
5. Operators moving vehicles and/or loads that are over legal dimension(s) without a permit must use the free Bid Route feature in the Texas Permitting and Routing Optimization System (TxPROS) to obtain a route: <https://TxPROS.TxDMV.gov/>. ***Note: Due to rapidly changing circumstances after a disaster, TxPROS often will not have up-to-date roadway information. Each operator is responsible for safely navigating to the destination.***
6. Suspension of permitting requirements does not imply that a road, highway, or bridge can safely accommodate the movement of an oversize/overweight vehicle and load.
7. This suspension notice serves as a permit under Transportation Code, Chapters 621 through 623; 23 U.S.C 127(a)(2), 49 U.S.C. 31112(b), and 49 U.S.C. 31113(c).

This suspension remains in effect until the earlier of 11:59 on November 20, 2019 or when terminated by the Office of the Governor.



Whitney Brewster, Executive Director
Texas Department of Motor Vehicles

If you have any questions, please call the toll-free number, 1-800-299-1700 (1-512-872-8090 local).